

# Garrett Soil Conservation District

## “Conservation News”

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## Raising Hemp in Maryland

The 2018 Farm Bill has legalized the growing of hemp for feed, fiber and oil production. Hemp is defined by USDA to have less than .3% tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) which is the chemical responsible for the drug effect of marijuana, which has a much higher level of THC. In 2019, Maryland Department of Agriculture participated in the 2014 Farm Bill Hemp Pilot Program which required growers to be part of an academic research project. Over 60 farms in Maryland participated in the 2019 pilot program including six in Garrett County.

For the 2020 growing season producers must be licensed by the state department of agriculture. Each state department of agriculture must have an approved USDA Hemp growing plan. Maryland has not submitted a plan, therefore growers at this time are being instructed to register with the USDA. USDA hemp information can be found at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/hemp>. The Maryland Hemp Coalition is a newly formed organization to assist hemp producers with navigating the rules and supporting the industry. You can find more info and join the Maryland Hemp Coalition by going to <https://hempmaryland.org/>. Locally a group of interested growers are forming a group to look at the viability of growing and marketing of hemp in Garrett County. If you have any questions, contact the Garrett County Extension Office at 301-334-6960.

### Important Dates

- Office Closed: Federal Holiday Feb 17
- Winter MASCD Board Meeting in Annapolis Feb 3 & 4
- Western MD Farm Bill Meeting: Feb 25
- Applications for EQIP round 1: Coming Soon!
- Nutrient Management winter application prohibited period ends February 29
- Kill down/suppression for Cover Crops takes place March 1 thru June 1
- Garrett County Envirothon: Info Coming Soon!

## *Garrett SCD Board of Supervisors*

### *Meeting Dates for 2020*

Regular meetings of the Garrett SCD will be held at the District office on the following dates in 2020. Anyone having an item to discuss with the supervisors are invited to attend any/all of the meetings. Meetings held November thru February begin at 10:00 a.m. All other months begin at 7:00 p.m. All times and dates are subject to change.

January 21	February 18	March 17
April 21	May 19	June 16
July 21	August 18	September 15
October 20	November 17	December 15



## From the Chairman.... James "Smokey" Stanton

### What might climate change make Garrett County look like by the next generation?

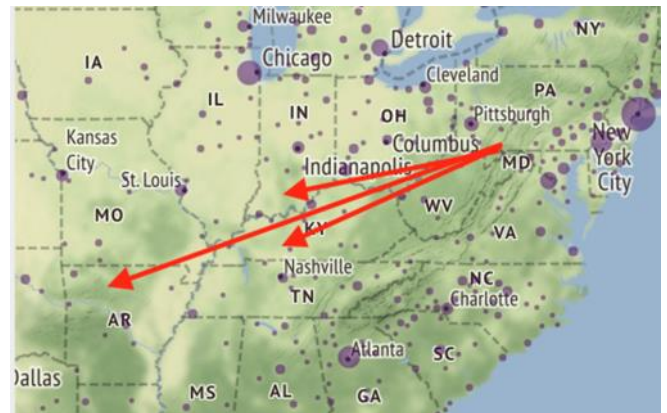
A study produced by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and the Appalachian Laboratory at Frostburg University has produced an interactive model that helps visualize what climate change might look like by 2080, 60 years in the future.

While the study and mapping does not specifically locate Garrett County, locations around us have been used to help measure the impacts of climate change. By using four smaller cities near us (Johnstown, Altoona, Pittsburgh and Fairmont) that are roughly similar to our geography, weather, pollution, and current climate, the study found our climate in 2080 might be similar to Sheperdsville, Kentucky; Evansville, Indiana and Jonesboro, Arkansas.

These comparisons indicate overall the potential for an average temperature increase of 9 degrees, and an average increase of 17 inches or precipitation, likely rainfall instead of our traditional snow and ice.

To the right, is an image taken from the model showing by arrows Garrett County and some of the smaller cities that currently have climates like what we might experience by 2080. While the projected changes would occur gradually, the implications for Garrett County and all of our agricultural sectors and applying best management practices in the sectors are potentially tremendous.

You can visit and use the interactive future climate map here: <https://fitzlab.shinyapps.io/cityapp/>



## Western Maryland Farm Bill Meeting

This winter, the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AREC) is partnering with the University of Maryland Extension and USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) to host a series of one-day workshops geared towards educating Maryland producers on changes associated with the 2018 Farm Bill.

The 2018 Farm Bill has been called evolutionary and not revolutionary as the 2014 Farm Bill was. The new Farm Bill continues the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) program and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program with modifications. These workshops will highlight the changes to these programs and other FSA programs. The workshops will also provide participants with the opportunity to understand how to use the decision tools that will assist producers in selecting between the ARC and PLC programs.

Seven winter workshops will be hosted around Maryland in February to prepare producers before the end up sign up by March 15, 2020 at their county FSA office. "Although many eligible producers may think they understand how the programs operate, its important to remember Congress did make changes to the programs. All producers should consider attending to better familiarize themselves with the changes and how those changes could impact program payments," said Paul Goering, Extension Legal Specialist, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland.

Workshops do require registration to attend to guarantee a lunch. Workshops cost \$15 to cover the cost of food.

Scholarship Information will be sent out to Garrett County Schools mid February. Visit our website for application and guidelines.

Deadline to apply is May 1, 2019.

[www.garrettscd.org](http://www.garrettscd.org)

**When: Tuesday, February 25**

**Time: 9:00am - 3:30pm**

**Where: Allegheny College of Maryland**

12401 Willbrook Rd

Cumberland MD 21502

**Cost: \$15.00**

**Contact: Paul Goeringer**

**Phone Number: 405-612-2112**

**Email: [lgoering@umd.edu](mailto:lgoering@umd.edu)**

THIS WORKSHOP WILL FOCUS IN ON THE CHANGES TO THE 2018 FARM BILL TO PREPARE MARYLAND PRODUCERS BEFORE SIGNUPS ON MARCH 15, 2020.

# 2019 Annual Report

## Agricultural Assistance

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Access Road	267 Feet
Animal Trails and Walkways	6,854 Feet
Channel Bed Stabilization	298 Feet
Critical Area Planting	1.8 Acre
Fence	4,757 Feet
Fencing for Stream Protection	14,464 Feet
Heavy Use Protection Area	2,731 Acres
Livestock Pipeline	5,307 Feet
Mulching	1.6 Acre
Non Streamside Fence	8,376 Feet
Pumping Plant	2 No
Roofs and Covers	2 No
Roof Runoff Structure	3 No
Spring Development	1 No
Stream Crossing	3 No
Structure for Water Control	No
Subsurface Drain	608 Feet
Underground Outlet	987 Feet
Waste Storage Facility	2 No
Watering Facility	13 No
Well	1 No

Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs): Developed/Updated 3 SCWQP's to help farmers protect natural resources on 153 acres of farmland. Currently there are 14,355 planned acres in the county.

Best management Practices: Installed 65 BMP's to control erosion, manage nutrients and protect water quality.

Cover Crops: Processed 29 applications with 21 farmers being able to participate. One thousand one hundred eighty six (1,186) acres of cover crops were planted on fields in Garrett County the fall of 2019.

Erosion and Sediment Control: Reviewed 91 Erosion and Sediment control plans for construction projects to ensure their effectiveness in protecting 2,822 acres. The district approved 72 of these plans.

### OUTREACH

- \* Soil Classes taught to 6th graders at Hickory Environmental Center.
- \* Garrett County Envirothon.
- \* Maryland Association of Soil Conservation District's Coloring Contest.
- \* Annual Cooperator Dinner

### SECURED COST FUNDING

EQIP: \$121,299

MACS: \$205,679

## *Farm Loan County Office Schedule Established*

Beginning in January, the farm loan team for the western shore area will implement a new schedule. Our goal is to provide you with more convenient, routine access to the farm loan team. While we won't be in each office, every week, the following schedule is being added, while continuing daily presence in the Frederick office. Please contact us at 301-662-1321 ext. 2, if you'd like to schedule an appointment.

Baltimore County (Cockeysville)	Second & Fourth Thursday (beginning January 9)
Carroll County (Westminster)	Every Tuesday (beginning January 7)
Garrett County (Mt. Lake Park)	First & Third Thursday (beginning January 2)
Harford County (Forest Hill)	First Tuesday (beginning January 7)
Montgomery County (Derwood)	Second Thursday (beginning January 9)
Prince Georges County (Upper Marlboro)	Third Tuesday (beginning January 21)
Washington County (Hagerstown)	Every Friday (beginning January 3)

## *USDA Opens 2020 Enrollment for Agriculture Risk Coverage & Price Loss Coverage Programs*

Agricultural producers now can enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs – two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) safety net programs – for the 2020 crop year. Meanwhile, producers who enrolled farms for the 2018 crop year have started receiving more than \$1.5 billion for covered commodities for which payments were triggered under such programs.

ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level. PLC provides income support payments on historical base acres when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its reference price. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized and updated both programs.

Signup for the 2020 crop year closes June 30, 2020, while signup for the 2019 crop year closes March 15, 2020. Producers who have not yet enrolled for 2019 can enroll for both 2019 and 2020 during the same visit to an FSA county office.

## *FERTILIZER BLACKOUT DATES ARE NOW IN EFFECT!*

To protect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, citizens and lawn care professionals are prohibited from fertilizing lawns with products containing nitrogen or phosphorus during blackout dates. Citizens and lawn-care professionals may resume lawn-fertilizer applications containing nitrogen and phosphorus on **March 1, 2020**, as long as the ground is not frozen or heavy rain is not predicted.

A soil test is required before phosphorus may be applied to established lawns. Potassium and lime may still be applied to lawns during blackout dates. As a reminder, fertilizer products should never be used to melt ice and snow on steps, sidewalks or driveways.

Applying fertilizer to hard or frozen ground provides a direct pathway for nutrient runoff into the storm drains that feed the Chesapeake Bay. To learn more, visit [www.mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer](http://www.mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer)



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# Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Natural Resources Conservation Service



*USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment.*

## Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides technical and financial assistance to producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

## Benefits

Through EQIP, NRCS provides agricultural producers with one-on-one help and financial assistance to plan and implement improvements, or what NRCS calls conservation practices. Together, NRCS and producers invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while improving agricultural operations.

## Program at a Glance

NRCS will help you develop a conservation plan that meets your goals and vision. This plan becomes your roadmap for selecting the right conservation practices for your land. NRCS offers about 200 unique practices designed for working farms, ranches, and forests.

NRCS financial assistance can cover part of the costs of implementing conservation practices.

## Who is Eligible?

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or rent agricultural land are eligible. EQIP assistance can be used on all types of agricultural operations, including:

- Conventional and organic
- Specialty crops and commodity crops
- Forestry and wildlife
- Historically underserved farmers\*
- Livestock operations

\*Increased and advance payments available for historically underserved producers (beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and military veterans.)

## How to Apply

Apply at your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

Applications for EQIP financial assistance are accepted throughout the year. Specific state deadlines are set for ranking and funding. If your application is ranked and selected, you will enter into a contract with NRCS to receive financial assistance for the cost of implementing conservation practices. Payment rates for conservation practices are reviewed and set each fiscal year.

## More Information

For more information, visit [nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill](https://nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill) or [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov).

Find your local USDA Service Center at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

## What's New in the 2018 Farm Bill

Adds potential resource concerns related to beneficial cost-effective operation changes.

Raises cap for organic producers to \$140,000 over four years.

New enrollment option through incentive contracts to address priority resource concerns.

Requires advance payment option be offered to historically underserved producers.

Authorizes direct program assistance to irrigation districts, including acequias and other entities, for purposes of improving water use efficiencies.



**Call the office for 2020 Sign-Up Dates**

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July 2019

[nrcs.usda.gov](https://nrcs.usda.gov)

**Helping People Help the Land | [www.md.nrcs.usda.gov](https://www.md.nrcs.usda.gov)**

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## 2019 Annual Implementation Reporting Forms to Be Mailed, Available Online

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (Dec. 20, 2019)** – The Maryland Department of Agriculture has announced that the 2019 Annual Implementation Reporting Forms and instructions will be mailed in early January to approximately 5,500 Maryland farmers who are regulated under the department’s Nutrient Management Program. These farmers are required to follow nutrient management plans when fertilizing crops and managing animal manure.

“Now is a good time for Maryland farmers to begin gathering records needed to complete your Annual Implementation Reports,” said Maryland Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. “The forms are due March 1, and will be used to help us fully account for everything that Maryland farmers are doing to protect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and its tributaries.”

Reporting forms are due to the department by **March 1** and are now available for download on the department’s [website](#). The forms outline nutrient applications made in calendar year 2019. Failure to submit an Annual Reporting Form may result in fines and loss of eligibility to receive cost-share funds.

As a result of recent legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly, this year’s reporting form will ask additional questions on manure and other organic products, including poultry residuals, sewage sludge, and compost that have been imported, exported, or land-applied in Maryland. The goal of the new reporting requirement is to ensure better compliance with Maryland’s Phosphorus Management Tool regulations.

Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) operating under a permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment should submit one combined reporting form along with a manure analysis to the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Nutrient Management Program.

### **Farmers should follow these guidelines when completing their Annual Implementation Reporting Forms:**

- Use the pre-filled reporting form that arrives in the mail.
- Do not leave spaces blank. If nutrients were not applied, place a zero in the box.
- If the information requested does not apply, write N/A in the box.
- Use the pre-printed envelope to mail the report.
- Affix appropriate postage and mail by March 1.

Farmers should check their mailboxes for this year’s reporting form beginning January 8, 2020. For more information, farmers should contact their [regional nutrient management office](#).

## Garrett SCD Scholarship

The District grants one \$1,000 scholarship annually to assist a Garrett County student in pursuing a degree in agriculture, natural resources or related environmental fields. Eligibility guidelines now allow college students and previous winners to apply as well as high school seniors. In order to qualify the student must meet the following requirements: Must be a resident of Garrett County, Maryland and graduating or was a resident of Garrett County, Maryland at the time of graduation from one of the following high schools: Mountain Ridge High School, Northern Garrett High School or Southern Garrett High School. Must have a high school/college grade point average of 3.0 or better. Must major in an agricultural or natural resources related field. Previous winners are eligible but preference will be given to first time applicants. Completed applications, along with a one page essay, are due into the conservation district office by May 1. Selection of the recipient will be made by June 30 by the Garrett Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Please visit <http://www.garrettscd.org/education.htm> for the application forms.



*2019 Winner Kyle Klotz*

## Available For Rent From Garrett SCD

### Transpread 5.5 Ton Lime and Fertilizer Spreader and 1590 John Deere No-Till Drill



The Transpread 5.5 Ton Lime Spreader was purchased to promote better growth and plant vigor of cropland and pasture. Improving soil fertility is an excellent way to revitalize an old meadow or pasture. Proper soil pH is important for crop and pasture performance. Vigorous vegetative growth minimizes soil erosion from runoff and minimizes the harmful effects on surface water quality from sediment and nutrients in runoff.

No-till farming (also called zero tillage or direct drilling) is a way of growing crops or pasture from year to year without disturbing the soil through tillage. No-till is an agricultural technique which increases the amount of water that infiltrates into the soil and increases organic matter retention and cycling of nutrients in the soil. In many agricultural regions it can reduce or eliminate soil erosion. It increases the amount and variety of life in and on the soil, including disease-causing organisms and disease organisms. The most powerful benefit of no-tillage is improvement in soil biological fertility, making soils more resilient. Farm operations are made much more efficient, particularly improved time of sowing and better trafficability of farm operations.

The rental rate for the Transpread 5.5 Ton spreader is \$3.00/ ton of any material spread with a \$30.00 minimum charge. The John Deere 1590 No-Till Drill is available for rent at \$10.00 per acre with a \$30.00 minimum charge. For additional information or to have your name added to the list, contact the Garrett SCD at 301-501-5886.



## Winter Nutrient Application Prohibited December 16 - February 29 Emergency Provisions

- ⇒ On-farm generated liquid manure (operations w/> 50 AU's)
- ⇒ Solid manure must be stacked
- ⇒ Request for Emergency Waiver direct to NMP by calling **410-841-5959** or contract Regional NM Specialist
- ⇒ Application shall be made to existing vegetative cover maintained as such until March 1
- ⇒ No application within 100' of surface waters
- ⇒ No application on slopes >7%
- ⇒ Rate per acre cannot exceed the 1 year P crop removal rate of 50 lbs PAN/Ac for the next harvested crop
- ⇒ No application when soil is saturated, ground is snow covered >1" or ground is hard and frozen >2"



**Garrett Soil Conservation District  
1916 Maryland Highway Ste C  
Mt Lake Park MD 21550**

**Service Center Main Line: 301-501-5856  
FSA Direct Line: 301-501-5885  
NRCS/SCD Direct Line: 301-501-5886**

**We are on the web and Facebook!  
[www.garrettscd.org](http://www.garrettscd.org) and Garrett Soil Conservation District**

**If you would like to:**

- **Receive an emailed version of this newsletter or**
  - **Would like to submit an article or**
  - **Have an idea for an article**
- Please contact, *Carrie Colebank*, at  
[carrie.colebank@maryland.gov](mailto:carrie.colebank@maryland.gov)**

**Office Staff**

Roger Kitzmiller, District Manager (MDA)  
Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist (USDA-NRCS)  
Charles "Chuck" Hayes, Soil Conservation Associate (MDA)  
Chris Herbert, Soil Conservation Engineering Technician (MDA)  
Jessica Aronhalt, Soil Conservationist (USDA-NRCS)  
Daniel Kirby, Soil Conservation Technician (USDA-NRCS)  
Carrie Colebank, Administrative Assistant (SCD)  
Vacant, Agriculture Resource Conservation Specialist (MDA)  
Vacant, Soil Conservation Engineering Technician (MDA)

**Business Hours: Monday thru Friday 8:00 am til 5:00 pm**

**Service Center Phone Number: 301-501-5856**



**1916 Maryland Highway Ste C / Mt Lake Park MD 21550**

**Board of Supervisors**

James "Smokey" Stanton, Chairman  
Kristen Enlow, Vice Chairman  
Cameron Crawford, Treasurer  
Katharine Dubansky, Vice Treasurer  
Bill Buckel, Member

*If you are interested in learning more about becoming a supervisor or associate supervisor please contact the district office at 301-501-5886.*

**The Garrett Soil Conservation District (GSCD) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.**